

**From:** [Wenning, Stephanie](#)  
**To:** [Stanfield, Brooks \(he/him/his\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Region 10 - Flash Message - Abandoned building Fire - Update #1  
**Date:** Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:02:36 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hey Brooks -

I'll be back in town tonight so just let me know if you need anything. Happy to take over tonight/ tomorrow.

Thanks  
Stephanie

On Jul 21, 2023, at 8:49 PM, Stanfield, Brooks (he/him/his)  
<Stanfield.Brooks@epa.gov> wrote:

*This message is being sent bcc to the R10 Supervisors Mailgroup*

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

<image001.png>

## **US Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10**

**NRC No.:** 1373699

**Flash Message:** Region 10 – Abandoned building Fire – **Update #1**

**Report as of:** 1700, 21 July 2023

**Overview:** On July 20, 2023, EPA received notification from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) that an abandoned warehouse fire occurring on July 19, 2023, had potentially released asbestos building material over the adjacent neighborhood. Public concern was raised, and the Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau responded, testing debris found in the local park; this material came back positive for asbestos. As a result, a Joint information Center (JIC) was stood up with ODEQ, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM), Multnomah County health services, Oregon Health Authority, and the Parkrose School District to put out messaging to the community about the release. **Local agencies continue to be inundated from concerned members of the Parkrose community. Since the initial press releases, points of contact within the company owned by the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) have been designated. The PRP**

has secured an environmental consultant and removal services contractor, and the cleanup of asbestos debris from nearby public parks and school properties has begun.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** At the request of the state and local partners, EPA has joined ODEQ, PBEM, Multnomah County, and the PRP in Unified Command to respond to this incident. State responders are continuing to conduct reconnaissance of the area and collected samples from the burned building. In response to community concerns, the JIC held a press conference at 4:30 pm today (Friday) that included Incident Commanders from all supporting agencies.

**EPA Actions:** This incident is within EPA jurisdiction. Richard Franklin was deployed today (Friday) and has entered into Unified Command as the Federal OSC. OSC Brad Martin will arrive on scene on Saturday to support with planning and oversight of field activities. EPA has mobilized START contractors to support Unified Command with field reconnaissance and delineate the impacted area; to conduct air monitoring and sampling activities; and with data management. According to the EJ Screen, there are potential EJ concerns in proximity to the incident location.

**Media Interest:** Medium

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/07/21/kmart-east-portland-fire-debris-asbestos-warning/>

<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/fire-former-k-mart/283-f2344af8-adc5-4ccb-b568-fb20f059d365>

<https://www.koin.com/news/portland/crews-battle-heavy-blaze-in-old-ne-portland-kmart-building/>

<https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2023/07/large-fire-destroys-former-kmart-building-in-northeast-portland-firefighters-on-scene.html>

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